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MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1940

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my 21st Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your district.

This report is brief and is according to instructions received from the Ministry of Health in their circular 2314 dated March 26th, 1941.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. WILSON,

18 Victoria Road, Salisbury. **Medical Officer of Health.**

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population—Census 1931 : 3,492
Population—Estimated Mid. 1940—5,470.
Area, 1,496 Acres
Rateable Value : £35,646
Sum represented by Penny Rate : £152 8 8
Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by Rate Books end of 1940 : 1,305.

Births, 1940.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
Live	33	36	69	(2 Illegitimate)
Still	1	1	2	(0 Illegitimate)

Birth Rate, 1940.		England and Wales	
Live	12.4	Live	14.6
Still	0.36	Still	0.55

Birth Rate Average last 10 years 11.5
England and Wales ,, ,, 10 ,, 14.9
Deaths : Males, 27. Females 46. Total, 73.

Death Rate (1940) 13.3 Average last 10 years 11.1
England and Wales ,, 14.3 ,, ,, 10 ,, 12.2

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age : Males 1 Females 0. Total, 1.
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births) 13.1 (1940)
England and Wales 55.0 ,,
Infantile Mortality Average last 10 years 29.1 ,,
England and Wales ,, ,, 10 ,, 55.6 ,,

The AREAL COMPARABILITY FACTOR 1.00.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease.	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	4	4	0
Diphtheria ...	3	3	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	0
Pneumonia ...	9	3	1
Erysipelas ...	5	2	2
Measles	164	1	1
Whooping Cough	2	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	13	13	2
Poliomyelitis ...	0	0	0

Scarlet Fever. Four cases were notified during the year, of these three were treated in the College Sanatorium and one in the Isolation Hospital.

Diphtheria. Three cases were notified, equally distributed during the year and one proved to be not the disease. All three were admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

Puerperal Pyrexia. One case was notified and this case was suffering from Pneumonia and recovered.

Pneumonia. Nine cases were actually notified though only eight were returned to the Registrar General; of these one died and of the other three deaths given by the Registrar General one was not notified to me and the others were of types not notifiable.

Measles and Whooping Cough. 164 of the former and two of the latter were notified during the year, one case of measles died and this case had been treated in Hospital.

Erysipelas. 5 cases were notified, two were treated in Hospital and both of these died.

Cerebro-spinal Fever. During the first three months of the year ten cases were notified and in addition two cases occurred among the military billeted in the town. No further case arose until October 19th when one further case was notified. All were treated in Hospital and the two who died were aged respectively 2 years and 8 months and 60 years.

Tuberculosis. The following 7 cases were notified :—
Age 20–25 Male Pulmonary 1 ; age 25–35 M.P. 2 ; Female P. 1 ; age 35–45 Male Pulmonary 1; age 45–55; Female P. 1.; one non-Pulm age 10.

Of these one female pulmonary age 26 died ; two left the district and did not really belong ; one has been removed from the register as non Tubercular.

Water Supply.

There has been no alteration in the supply of the town.

There are no pipe supplies other than the Public Mains and a private supply to the College.

During the year, a supply was provided to a Military Camp at Salisbury Hill. This supply was taken from the Reservoir through a meter, and pumped by the Military to various units in the Forest.

11 Bacteriological and one Chemical Samples were taken. The Chemical was excellent and the Bacteriological contained no B. Coli except two which showed small numbers. This water was therefore excellent.

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year, 2 more houses were connected to the new Public sewers at Manton.

Rivers and Streams.

The section of the River Kennet for which the Council is responsible was thoroughly cleaned out and weeded twice during the year, and no nuisance was caused. One written notice was served on an owner requiring him to clean that part of the river for which he was responsible this notice was not complied with.

Closet Accommodation.

2 privies were converted to W.C.'s ; both at Manton.

W.C.'s are now provided to all Council Houses.

Public Cleansing.

House refuse was collected once weekly by motor vehicle.

During the year, at the request of the Ministry of Health, paper, metal, bones and other salvageable material was separated from the house refuse, and sold.

Swimming Bath.

Water is pumped from the river into the bath and is frequently changed, in addition the water is chlorinated by means of the addition of " Chloros " and the amount of free chlorine tested daily by means of the Orthotolidine test.

Milk Supply.

The milk supply of the town remains satisfactory.

Three of the five producers have " Accredited " licences, and samples are taken regularly to see that the required standard is maintained.

Military Billets.

Troops have continued to occupy billets in the town during this year. 193 visits were paid to buildings thus occupied and 28 defects notified. 10 informal notices were sent, 8 of which were complied with. 18 defects were remedied after verbal notice only. Very little trouble is now caused by military billets—the courtesy and co-operation shown by the military authorities obviates frequent inspections and makes the rectifying of complaints an easy and prompt matter.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

	No. of Inspections.	No. of Defects.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Remedied by 3.	Remedied by 4.	Remedied after verbal instructions only.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nuisances ...	108	27	16	2	4	2	6
Slaughter-houses ...	27	9	5	—	3	—	6
Knackers' Yards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Places where food is prepared ...	33	2	—	—	—	—	2
Cowsheds ... Dairies and Milkstores	25	3	3	—	2	—	—
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses	16	2	—	—	—	—	2
Butcher's Shops ...	36	9	2	—	1	—	6
Totals	245	52	26	2	10	2	22

Milk and Dairies, etc.

Number of Wholesale Producers registered (1940)	6
,, Retail Purveyors registered (1940)	12
,, Certificates issued (Producers) during 1940 ...	0
,, Certificates issued (Retailers) during 1940 ...	0
Approximate number of Cows.....	115

Meat and Other Foods.

Changes were made during the year in the arrangements for the inspection of food and food stores, owing to the coming into operation of the Ministry of Food meat rationing scheme and the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Under the Ministry of Food scheme, all private slaughterhouses were closed, and certain slaughterhouses were taken over by the Government as central depots for certain areas. Two such slaughterhouses were taken over in the Borough, and all others in the District were closed. This means that all meat for the Borough and the Marlborough and Ramsbury Rural District is slaughtered in these two places. Consequently, the number of both inspections and condemnations has considerably increased. The total number of condemnations during the year was 529, of which 97 were condemnations of entire animals. The amount of meat condemned during the year was 12 tons 8 cwt. 1 qr., as compared with 19 cwt. 2 qrs. during 1939.

A certain amount of difficulty was experienced in preventing nuisances arising in the slaughterhouses owing to the large number of animals slaughtered in a restricted space, and owing to the inadequacy of arrangements for clearing offal etc. Although considerable improvement has been effected, there was still room for further improvement at the end of the year.

Number of Licensed Slaughter-houses	4
Notices received of Regular Slaughter	1
Notices received of Casual Slaughter	12
Number of Condemnations	529

Under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, certain premises where food is prepared were required to be registered, and the following list shows those dealt with :—

Premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream	8
,, ,, ,, preparation of sausages and preserved meat	6

TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death.	M.	F.
All Causes	27	46
Typhoid and Paratyphoid		
Cerebrospinal Fever ..	1	
Scarlet Fever		
Whooping Cough ..		
Diphtheria		
Tuberc. of Respir. syst. ..		1
Other form of Tuberc.		
Syphilitic Diseases ..		
Influenza		1
Measles		1
Ac. Polio-myelitis and Enceph.		
Ac. Inf. Enceph.		1
Cancer of b. cav; and oesoph (M.) uterus (F)		1
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	1	
Cancer of breast ..		
Cancer of all other sites ..	1	5
Diabetes		2
Intra. cran. vasc. lesions	4	
Heart disease	5	12
Other dis. of circ. syst. ..		2
Bronchitis	2	2
Pneumonia	2	2
Other Resp. diseases ..		
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum		
Diarrhoea under two years		

Causes of Death.	M.	F.
Appendicitis		
Other digest. diseases ..		1
Nephritis	2	1
Puerp. and postabort. sepsis		
Other maternal causes ..		
Premature birth		
Cong. malf. birth inj. Inf. dis.		
Suicide	3	1
Road Traffic Act	1	
Other violent causes ..		
All other causes ..	4	2
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—		
Total	1	
Legitimate	1	
Illegitimate		
Live Births		
For Birth-rate		
Total	33	36
Legitimate	31	36
Illegitimate	2	
For Inf. Mort.-rate ..		
Total	36	36
Legitimate	34	36
Illegitimate	2	
Stillbirths		
Total	1	1
Legitimate	1	1
Illegitimate		
Population	5,470	